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Memories of old Dallas

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Memories of Old Dallas

by
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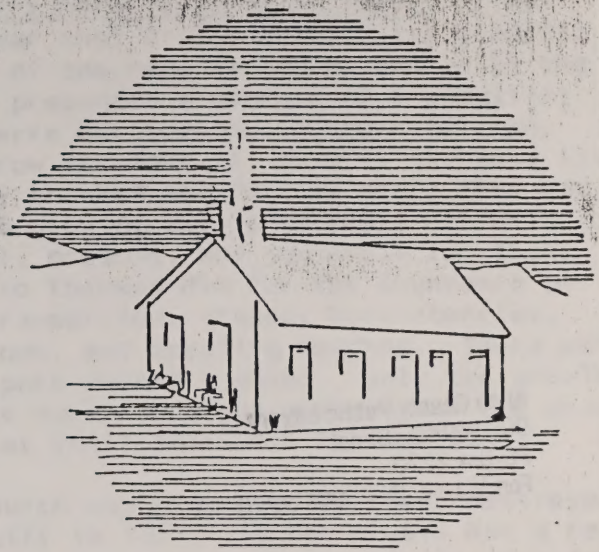
The Polk County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 317
Hatfield, Arkansas 71945

MEMORIES OF OLD DALLAS

KATHLEEN ALEXANDER HERZOG
PALM SPRINGS, CALIF.



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MEMORIES

This is the story of the Old Dallas Methodist Church and the few landmarks that are left of a once thriving town: Dallas, Arkansas. It is a compilation of stories told or written by those who lived here. It is in answer to questions newer generations have been asking. This should have been written years ago for memories are dimmed by years and records lost or burned.

Dallas is a ghost town today. Just a few landmarks left to stimulate reminiscing. There is the big tree east of the Jess Harrison home, the Methodist Church, and the Dallas Cemetery. The two-story Hudgens home is soon to be torn down and the big tree in front has died. It stands alone, shorn of its limbs, looking forlorn and sad.

There were settlers here as early as 1825. It was after the Civil War that Dallas enjoyed its greatest growth. To many of the men, maimed or broken by the war, this valley presented a picture of tranquility and hope. They were hardworking, resourceful men. If they could not grow it, make it, or kill it, they lived without it. They thanked God for the peace that had come, for the 276 growing days each year, for wild turkeys, deer, quail, possums, and squirrels for their tables. They also thanked Him for the abundance of wild fruits - strawberries, grapes, huckleberries, gooseberries, plums, and seedling peaches. There was an abundance of pure mountain water. Only the growing days and the pure water have not changed and the charm of the valley that still intrigues the newcomer.

The Methodist Church was organized in 1844, destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1838. It has always had a regular minister assigned by the Methodist Conference in Little Rock except for a short time when steps were

being taken to sell the building. This movement was stopped by a loyal group headed by Judge William (UNCLE) Alexander. Until recently the church was on the Cherry Hill Circuit but is now a member of the Mountain View Parish whose minister, Rev. A. J. Lightfoot, serves four churches. Dallas Church has a worship service on the first and third Sundays at 8:45 A. M.

Rev. J. W. Eads is credited with doing most to establish the church. On April 20, 1888, after the first building had burned, three-quarters of an acre of land was bought from J. M. and Sally Hopkins for thirty dollars and the present church was built. Rev. Z. Y. McCann was the minister at that time.

In records we find a delightful story. Rev. McCann said this story made the rounds in 1888. One Sunday morning while some preacher was sermonizing about fire and brimstone, a slight quake caused the church to tremble. The quake did not happen in Dallas, but the story reached this area, and the new church was built without further delay.

Dallas was incorporated in 1879 with a population of three hundred. It had four churches, a school, a steam grist mill, a cotton gin, and a weekly paper. If you cared to gather with the crowd, the postman would stand on the steps of a store and read the newspaper aloud. It cost sixty-five cents to get a horse shod, a bridle bit cost twenty-five cents, and a pair of shoes could be bought for two dollars.

H. C. Ridling, Associational Missionary of the Ouachita Association, contributed much to the establishment of the Dallas Church. A record, dated 1881, gives this report of his activities: number of days, 120; miles traveled, 1130; sermons preached, 121; churches constituted, 11; baptized, 10; organized Sabbath Schools, 2.

Rev. R. O. Wilson's records tell a frustrating story. Rev. Wilson tried in every way to interest the youth of Dallas in Epworth League. One evening he captured their interest when he brought his fiddle. He even permitted them to dance. There was a church trial, and after Rev.

Wilson apologized, the board permitted him to continue preaching if he would not repeat the sinful act of fiddling a dance tune. (As late as 1916, a violin was not welcomed in the church by some of the older members.)

While country cemeteries always seem peaceful, Old Dallas Cemetery seems more restful than most. In 1949 A. V. Pirtle took it upon himself to care for the cemetery as many of his people were buried there. When others heard of this, they came to help or sent funds. The fences were replaced, markers straightened, and many were repaired. Bird houses were hidden in the oaks and maples. The oldest marker that we could find was that of a soldier, James B. Williamson, died January 25, 1864. There is a row of slate markers, seven in number, that is said to be that of an early Dallas shoemaker and his family. The script engraving on some of the slate markers is a thing of beauty.

Near the cemetery gate there is a grave with two markers. The smaller marker bears these words: "An honest man is the noblest work of God". It was placed there by a son of the deceased; later when the Mother passed away, the daughters erected a larger more impressive stone. The son asked that the stone he had placed at his father's grave be allowed to stay and it stands today.

Dallas depopulated quickly when the town of Mena sprung up. As a town, Dallas will never come back, but Dallas Valley, reaching from the mountains to Prairie Creek, eminates all the charm, hope, and sadness that is life. The tranquility that appealed to and welcomed those war weary families after the war, is still here.

ALEXANDER

Alfred Patten Alexander m Sarah Fleming
Children:

1 Nancy Alexander m Pink Mount
Children:
Ollie Mount m Curtis Shields
Bela Mount m Fred Strickland
Willie Mount m William Kelley
Minnie Lee Mount m GEORGE W. Latimer
Roy Mount m Florence Steele

2 Margaret Alexander m Reuben Harrison
Children:
Ada Harrison m Henry Christie = FRANCIS - MILDRED
Beulah Harrison d.y.
✓ Ruby Harrison m Frank Strauss BETTY ANN
BETTY = ELIZABETH "

3 William Alexander m Anna Pirtle
Children:
Pirtle Alexander d.y.
Paschal Alexander m India Turner

My → FATHER 4 Lee Alexander m MINNIE --- McCreary
Children:
Kathleen Alexander M LEO J. HERZOG
Gertrude Alexander M C.E. DOYLE
A. P. Alexander II M MARIE - - - - - - - -
" KATHLEEN ALEXANDER

5 Olen Alexander m Frances Thornton
Children:
Otis
Otto
Thornton — 1 DAUGHTER - GERMANY
DUVAL

6 Sarah Alexander m Leslie Mosely
Children:
Leslie Mosely d.y.

ALEXANDER

A. P. Alexander was the first teacher in the public school at Dallas. Will Joplin and D. B. Harrison signed his contract, dated 1859. Later, Mr. Alexander became a lawyer and a Methodist minister. He was pastor of the Dallas Church for several years and served as circuit clerk for twelve years.

In the west wall of the Old Dallas Church is a beautiful window in memory of Rev. A. P. Alexander, given to the Church by Mrs. Sallie Alexander Mosely, shortly before her death.

In the west wall is another beautiful window in memory of Rev. J. Y. Christmas who was pastor of the church in 1896. He built the first church in Mena - a Methodist Church, back of the old Mena Star office on Honert Avenue. The building was of sawmill slabs with the bark on. Our authority says, "It was used a heap".

BELL

Joseph G. Bell m Louise Smith, Cove, Arkansas
Children:
R. E. Lee Bell
Sarah Bell
John G. Bell
Ruff Bell
M. L. Bell
Tom C. Bell m Emma McFarland, Cove, Arkansas
Children:
Frank Bell m Lillian Fence
Harry Bell m Betty Harrison
Virgil Bell m Cathrine Shacklett
Lillie Mae Bell m Ernest Leftwich
Champ Bell m Margaret Henry Grenier
Children:
Mary Bell
Larry Grenier Bell

The Bell family is of Scotch-Irish descent. Joseph G. Bell had a useful and colorful life. He left home at the age of sixteen, worked on a Mississippi River steamboat for five years, went to California and worked as a gold miner, then returned to his native Indiana. In Cincinati he learned the trade of saddle and harness maker.

Sometime later Joseph G. Bell came to Polk County, Arkansas and settled near Cove. In 1878 he began bid ding on mail route contracts. He had mail routes in eleven states and seventeen routes in Arkansas. In 1338, while serving as Building Commissioner for Polk County, he built at Dallas, one of the best and cheapest jails in the state.

CUNNINGHAM

Bill Cunningham m Delphia Cuthorn
Children:
Aaron Cunningham m Myra Pierce
Bud Cunningham m Daisy Sims
Children:
Troy Cunningham m Margaret Forehand
L. D. Cunningham m Verna Patten
Floyd Cunningham m Lucille Callahan
Noah Cunningham m Lenora Kelley
Owena Cunningham m Verdell Pitts
Carl Cunningham m Tina Farnsworth
Children:
Billie Cunningham m Anna Ellison
Vandiver Cunningham m Helen Cox
Bonnie Cunningham m -------- Nicholson
Clarence Cunningham m Barbara --------
J. D. Cunningham m Jeanette Ryals
Paul Cunningham m Dorothy Gipson
Edward Cunningham m Lorene Ryals
Jack Cunningham m Connie Brown
Louise Cunningham m Paul White

DAVIS

Richard Davis m Elizabeth Harris
Children:
Clara Davis m Jack Davis
Leona Davis
Eugene Davis m Nan Conn
Children:
Bell Davis m Watie Clift
Zula Davis m -------- Jeckson
Esther Davis m Fayette Brown
Grace Davis m -------- Harris
Haskel Davis m Delma Rogson
Children:
William Davis
Frank Davis
Brant Davis m -------- Phillips
Richard Davis m -------- Childers
Jerry Davis m -------- Cannon
Gene Davis m -------- Templeton
Dolena Davis m -------- Christian

"Uncle" Dick Davis was a good neighbor and a fine farmer. He owned land now part of the airport. As a relic of his service in the Confederate Army, Uncle Dick always carried his buggy whip in rifle position.

ELLIOTT

James Elliott m Florence McClure
Children:
Holder Elliott m -------- Bates
Bun Elliott m Edith Ellison
Gaylord Elliott m -------- Nagel
Pearl Elliott m -------- Hopkins
Lonnie Elliott m --------
Henry Elliott m Susie Harrison
Children:
Leo Elliott m Clara Garlet
Irene Elliott m Ivan Looney

James Elliott lived in Dallas when it was the county seat. He worked in the Hudgens Brothers' Store and later moved to Board Camp where the younger Elliotts live today. Some of them attend services in the old church at Dallas where their family name appears in the records of seventy years ago.

ESTES ----REEVES

John Estes m Martha Genet
Children:
Joseph Estes m Susan Wear
Children:
Victor Estes m Georgianna Gother
Julia Estes m F. M. Reeves
Children:
Olga Reeves
Arch Reeves
Victor Reeves
Oscar Reeves
Edward Reeves
Herman Reeves
Felix Reeves
George Reeves

Joe Estes was one of the first teachers in the Dallas School. He was one of only six teachers in the state of Arkansas who held state certificates to teach at that time.

F. M. Reeves was postmaster at Dallas.

FLEMING

Alfred P. → Wayne Fleming m Nancy -------

Children:

GRANDMOTHER

Sarah Fleming m A. P. Alexander

Katherine Fleming m -------- Wallace

Barsheba → Borsha Fleming m George -------- Pickle

Millie Fleming m -------- Montgomery

Duck Fleming m -------- Miller

John Fleming m --------

Waymon "Wayme" Wayne Fleming II m Vinie Head Mead

Children:

Alex Fleming m Lanie Inman

Fairzetta Fleming m Edward Wright

Billy Fleming m -------- Cooper

Children:

Bertha Fleming m John Price

John Fleming m Emma Price

Wayne Fleming III m Rhea Dollar

WRIGHT

Edward Wright m Fairzetta Fleming
Children:
Gaylord Wright m Docia [redacted]
Children:
Enoch Wright Killed in action in World War II
Thomas Wright m Marlene Follet
Betty Wright m Dale Lovett
Martha Wright m Robert Pierce
Fairzetta Wright m Jackson Drake

Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Wright are members of and attend services in the old Methodist Church at Dallas from whose windows one looks out on climbing pines on Old Round Top, at the foot of which Gaylord Wright was born some seventy years ago.

HARRISON

Daniel R. Harrison m -------- Rucker (Tennessee)
Children:
Daniel B. Harrison m Elizabeth Joplin
Roxana Harrison m -------- Oliver
Sarah Harrison m -------- Reece
Nancy Harrison m -------- Fleming
Nathaniel Harrison d.y.
Katherine Harrison m --------
Thomas Bluford Harrison
John P. Harrison
Susan Harrison
Opann Harrison
Bell Harrison
James J. Harrison
Children:
Hastings Harrison

Hastings Harrison is Senior Consultant to the President of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. A major part of his leadership has been through the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Mr. Harrison has presented a copy of a teacher's contract drawn March 24, 1859, for David Hawkins to teach fifteen "scholars" for six months for the total salary of ninety dollars. Said David Hawkins agreed to teach spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic "to the best of my ability." There is not one mark of punctuation in the lengthy contract.

JAMES HARRISON

James Harrison m --------
Children:
James Harrison Jr.
Dora Harrison m Culbert Baker
Children:
Minnie Baker m -------- Maddox
Lola Baker m --------
Ruby Baker m -------- Page
Lucien Baker m Betty Cureton
Thomas Baker m -------- Moore
Oliver Harrison m Mattie Gardiner
Children:
James Harrison m --------
Oliver Harrison Jr. m -------- Greene
Betty Harrison m -------- Puckett
Mildred Harrison m -------- Rose
Florence Harrison m Dale Barron
Children:
Lonnie Barron m Jane Ellison
Coach, Mean School
Edward Harrison m Pearl Cagle
Children:
Vena Harrison m -------- Baily
Odus Harrison m -------- Garmon
Leslie Harrison m -------- Philpot
Dorothy Harrison m -------- Stevens

James Harrison homesteaded on the Standing Rock Road. Here he reared his family which was and is of the Methodist faith. His daughter, Mrs. Susie Elliott of Board Camp, remembers walking with her mother, sister, and brothers to Dallas Church and to camp meetings at Bethesda Springs. She remembers two preachers of that time -- Edward Justice and John Simpson.

Mrs. Elliott closed her letter by saying, "Thank the Lord the old church still stands." So say we all.

JOPLIN

William C. Joplin m Mahala Ward (Mississippi)
Children:
Bluford Joplin m -------- Scott
Children:
Martha Joplin m 1st -------- Bell
2nd -------- Nations
Children:
Ethel Bell
Derrel Nations
Bennett Nations
Esta Mae Nations m Willis H. Hudgins
Cora Joplin m Drew Capehart.
Children:
Homer Capehart
Ruth Capehart
Cecil Capehart
John Ed Joplin m 1st -------- Cheek
2nd Fern Wiley
Children:
Gertrude Mosely m Willard Mosely

Children:
Sarah Katherin Mosely m Clifford Fricks II
Children:
Deborah Fricks
Clifford Fricks III
Paul Joplin m Thelma Childs
Thell Joplin m Dorothy Marsh
Helen Joplin m Paul Martin —— (IRENE-)
Lois Joplin m James E. Smith
Children:
Claudette Smith
Marcelle Joplin m James T. Walker
Children:
Janeth Walker
John E. Joplin Jr. m Evelyn Anglin
William Wiley Joplin m Erica Jorgum (Germany)
Dexter Joplin d.y.

JOPLIN
(Continued)

Ozie Joplin m Idlum Lindsay
Children:
Eleta Lindsay m Chester Flick
Children:
Kenneth Flick
Ronald Flick
Audrey Flick m -------- Sorrells
Children:
Nancy Sorrells
Renee Sorrells

The Joplins, Harrisons, and Cunninghams are related. All being early families of Virginia. Our files mention one of these families as early as 1865.

John Ed Joplin held public offices for many years. He was city treasurer of Mena in its early days. From 1929 to 1930 he served as sheriff-collector. For twenty years he was with the State Revenue Department with offices in the Polk County Courthouse. He was for over fifty years, a member of Dallas Lodge #123.

LINDSAY

Lucien Lindsay m Dora Moore
Children:
Morris (Pike) Lindsay
Charles Lindsay
Brakeman on Kansas City Southern Railroad
Emma Lindsay m George Griffith
Children:
Lindsay Griffith
Daniel Griffith
Morris Griffith
Dora Griffith
Idlum Lindsay m Ozie Joplin
Children:
Elita Lindsay m Chester Flick
Children
Kenneth Flick
Ronald Flick
Audrey Lindsay m Hubert Sorrell
Children:
Nancy Sorrell
Renee Sorrell
Emmett Lindsay
Dudley Lindsay

The Referendum, a Populist newspaper, was published by Lucien Lindsay and sons Pike and Charlie. The Referendum was sold to Compere and Pipkin and became The Courier. Dr. Lindsay was also a dentist. He had an office in Dallas which he later moved to Mena. At his retirement he sold out to Dr. R. C. Maxwell.

The Old Lindsay home was on Vinegar Hill on the Old Potter Road. Dr. Lindsay was a very versatile man. The story of his colorful life is in the Mena Library. You should read it.

McPHETRIGE

Pole McPhetrige m Emmalina Cooper
Children:
Rex McPhetrige d.y.
Gene McPhetrige m Cora Ison
Children:
May McPhetrige m -------- Stalcup
Ted McPhetrige m -------- Smith
Mozelle McPhetrige m Homer Dale Lloyd
Mack McPhetrige d.y.
James McPhetrige m Daisy Cranor
Clarence McPhetrige m Nola Brawley
Children:
Reba McPhetrige
Blanche McPhetrige
Jessie McPhetrige
Ruth McPhetrige m John (Bud) Wallace
Children:
Hazel Dell Wallace m Coyle Ford
Margaret Wallace
Dan Wallace
Mary Wallace d.y.
Jack McPhetrige m Mary Gram
Hal McPhetrige (D)
Ted McPhetrige m ---------

Col. Pole McPhetrige came from Cleveland, Tennessee to Dallas where he taught school and later became a lawyer. He continued his practice in Mena until World War I, but maintained his home on his Dallas farm. It was while driving to Mena that he named "The Road of Seventeen Mudholes". This is now the Forest Road and the seventeen mudholes have long since been conquered. The France W ters Home is the only one still standing to remind us of that day, and it has lost a story in stature.

MARTIN

Tom Martin was sent from McDonald County, Missouri, to serve as United States Marshall in this territory along with Sam Gipson and Ben Minor.

Tom Martin's daughter, Cordelia, guarded prisoners when her father was away on official business. They were both members of the Dallas Methodist Church. Cordelia married Simeon Johnson who worked in the Hudgens store. When their daughter was three years old she was kidnapped by a band of Gypsies who were traveling north on the old Military Road. A Polk County posse rescued her near Fort Smith. This daughter, Janette Johnson, is now Mrs. C. S. Hall. Her father, Simeon Johnson, was one of the first Kansas City Southern paymasters in Mena. Mrs. Hall is now living in Mena.

Marshall Tom Martin was murdered in 1894. He was shot from ambush. His murderer was not apprehended at that time but thirty years later, confessed the murder on his death bed.

MEANS

Dr. Henry Means m Katherine Featherly
Children:
James Means m Hazel Bradford Moorhouse
Ted Means m Gertrude Crouch
Ida Means d.y.
Arthur Ferguson Means m Ella Felts

Dr. Means, a Kentuckian, was one of five doctors who hung up their shingles in Dallas. The others were Dr. E. M. Jennings, Dr. Baker, Dr. Hancock, and Dr. P. R. Watkins who practiced in Mena until retirement.

"Jim" Means still lives at Dallas near Bethesda Springs. He went to school in a two-room frame building that was razed about 1922 to build the present brick building on the site. Some teachers he remembers were Miss Annie (Aun
X Pirtle (Alexander), Mr. Cramer, and his Uncle Joe Terrell. Mr. Terrell was hit in the head with a green persimmon thrown by his nephew. Jim's intentions were better than his aim. He had not meant to hit Mr. Terrell. A little primary girl cleared him of blame with a little white lie. This little girl became a teacher and a minister.

MILLER

John Miller
Came to Dallas from Trenton, Georgia in 1850.
Children:
James Miller
Children:
Quillen Miller
Postmaster, Dallas
Joseph Miller
Attorney, Member of Arkansas Legislature
Columbus Miller
Douglas Miller
John Thornton Miller m -------- Russell
Member of Arkansas Legislature 1893 - 1895
William A. Miller
Children:
Roland Miller m -------- Spears
Children:
Roland Miller II m Eloise Reece
Hal Miller m Anne Jordan
Ella Miller m John Graf
Marcus Miller m Lora Hunsaker
Arkansas Legislator 1933 and 1935
Seymour Miller m Vester Hooper
Beatrice Miller m Griffin Liles
Louis Miller m Lola Crawford
Leonard Miller m Loretta Horn
Aaron Miller m Dorothy Ellison
Jean Miller m Lake Bates

In 1895, John Thornton Miller introduced the first bill in the state legislature to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in the state. It failed to pass but it was the fore runner of bills to follow.

PIRTLE (Scotch-Irish)

James Pirtle (Tennessee, 1833)
Children:
Benjamin Pirtle m Minerva White
Children:
Virgil Pirtle m Louganie Buchanan
Children:
Isaac Pirtle m Maud Powell
Kirby Pirtle m Jo Hudgens
Charles Pirtle m --------
Virgil Pirtle m 2nd Olevia Scott
Children:
A. V. Pirtle m Dorothy Hood
Christine Pirtle m -------- Standridge
Burton Pirtle m Artelia Swift
Children:
Rhea Pirtle m Roy Hawthorne
Children:
Leon Hawthorne
Helena Pirtle m John Bratcher
Children:
Lee Bratcher d.y.
Annie Pirtle m William Alexander (AUNT + UNCLE
Children:
Pirtle Alexander d.y.
Paschal Alexander m India Turner
Children:
Billie Alexander
-------- (son)
Linnie Pirtle m J. I. Alley (Dallas Attorney)
Augustus Pirtle

James Pirtle settled near Dallas in 1333. His farm later became the home of Ben Pirtle.

In 1844 the temporary seat of Justice was established at the home of James Pirtle, also a postoffice called Panther because of the panther incident at the spring on this place.

Isaac Jones had settled the site of Dallas in 1833.

SMITH
(Grocer in Dallas)

Sam Smith m 1st Cecil
Children:
Ernest Smith m --------
Berra smith m -------- Cranor
Lily Smith m Joe Emerson
Children:
Joe Emerson Jr. m Georgia Moye
Martha Ellen Emerson m -------- Hilton
Sam Smith m 2nd Milham
Children:
Dorothy Smith m -------- Laughlin (Cousin)
Milre Smith m -------- Wilson
Mary Smith m Dr. Ulferts
Stuart Smith m Vernice Wood
Children:
Mike Smith
Paul Smith m Mary Hiaumet
Children:
David Smith

WATERS

Francis A. Waters m Tennessee Mount
Children:
Sarah Waters d.y.
George W. Waters m Esther Kinsworthy
Children:
George Francis Waters
Louis Waters m Louise Stockton
Doris Waters m Stanley Burt
Children:
Ronnie Burt
Kenneth Burt
Audry Waters m Donald Masters
Children:
Phillis Masters
Vickie Masters
Cathy Masters
Pollie Waters m Alden Hughes
Children:
Orlando Francis Hughes d.y.
James N. Waters d.y.

At an early age Francis Waters came from Blount County, Tennessee to Polk County where he homesteaded on Prairie Creek. This farm is still owned by the W-ters family. France was a nephew of John and Roten Wear who had come to Polk County earlier.

"Squire Waters" and his daughter Sarah taught the Dallas School in the early '90's. He was also Justice of the Peace for several years.

JOHN WEAR

John Wear m 1st Iciphene Murphy (East Tennessee)
Gold Miner, Miller, Farmer, Hunter
Children:
John Lafayette Wear m 1st Catherine Waters
Children:
Francis Wear m Roy Dunn
John Harrison Wear m Winnie Cochran
John Lafayette Wear m 2nd Mary Click
Children:
Earnest Wear d.y.
Lavater Wear Killed in action in World War I
Millard Wear m Miriam Haynes, (New Hampshire)
John Wear m 2nd Julia Cabler
Children:
Sarah Wear m John Mount
Children:
Arvil Mount m Lula Wagoner
Ozie Mount m Bell Wallace
Bunyan Mount m Mildred Hollinger
Julia Mount m John Lee
Easter Mount m Howard Payne
Burl Mount m Laura Shinn
Harris Wear m -------- Hatton
Children:
Lessie Wear
Lanie Wear m Norman McNabb
Susannah Wear m John Cole
Children:
Mary E. Cole
Charlotte Cole
Roten Wear m Caroline Biggs
Children:
Robert J. Wear
William E. Wear
Julia E. Wear
Robert Wear m Jimmie Fish
Children:
Bonnie Wear
Evelyn Wear
Jack Wear
Delia Wear
Robert Wear

WILES

George Wiles lived in Dallas and carried the mail from Dallas to Waldron over the Old Federal Road over which troops were moved during the Civil War. Traces of this old road may be seen today as it crosses the Hughes-Bonsell farm. The old house on the hill north of the airport faces this old road.

While living in Dallas, George Wiles married Cornelia Anne White of a well-known pioneer family. Later they moved into the Corinth community. I believe their old home is now the Wheelock farm.

Their children are Russel Wiles, Mrs. Wesley Earhart, and Mrs. Effie Embrey. Grandchildren of George and Anna Wiles are James Wiles, Thomas Earhart, and Ohice Embrey.

YORK

Before the advent of Mena there was a post office on the Old Line Road named York. John York was the postmaster. The mail was carried, usually on horseback, from Waldron to Dallas thence to York. Two carriers on this rugged route were George Wiles and Bert Pirtle.

When trains ran into Mena the post office was moved into Mena. The name was changed to Mena, but the postmaster was John York. Later Mr. York ran the York Shoe Shop for many years. He was an expert cobbler.

Two daughters of John York still live in Mena. They are Sarah Jane York and Mrs. Christa Parsons. d. 1984

It is easy to be sentimental about Old Dallas -- spirits of the dear departed hovering over the old church as it dreams of the days that were -- shades of the past going about the town that was -- the many citizens of that undone town lying on the hill to the east, etc. The fact is that Dallas is a happy community, snuggled close to the cool side of the mountains, stretching lazily into the many curves and coves, enjoying all the blessings of the past, plus the comforts of modern living.

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Boys would be boys fifty years ago to the present time; and boys will carve and whittle as initials on the backs of pews in the old church will silently and apologetically testify. Do you recognize any of these?

W.W. I.H. V.P. T.H. F.B. A.M.
H.M. R.W. H.B. R.W. J.B. J.F. E.W.
O.B. M.A. V.B.

These few pieces of jetsam picked up on the shore of memory show that life in Dallas has been far from dreary.

During a revival at the old church, a young man of rather careless ways escorted a young lady to theevening service. As the young man sat down he struck his coat pocket against the arm of the pew, breaking a bottle of "liniment" he was carrying for emergencies. The liquid soaked through his pocket and formed a pool on the seat. A pious sister entered the pew and as the young couple moved over the good sister sat down in the pool. We omit further remarks.

A Dallas Valley farmer often peddled beef through the town. Having found a tapeworm in a beef, he put it in a jar onto "The Square" and was enjoying himself mightily in telling the Saturday crowd how he had removed this specimen from a neighbor. His story grew in telling, and as the interest was reaching a high pitch, the neighbor man rode into town. The beef peddler suddenly remembered he had work to do at home and faded away.

One Hallowe'en night a group of "goblins" silently and surreptitiously stole into a buggy shed in the Valley and changed the high rear wheels onto the front axle. Come Sunday, the buggy was driven to church. On arrival the driver noticed some unusual attention as Prince trotted across the churchyard to his usual hitching place. On the homeward trip a neighbor asked, "Are you having any trouble with your buggy today?" "Yes, I am," said the driver, "I can't seem to keep it in the road." The neighbor proceeded to let the cat out of the bag.

During a revival, the preacher spent much of his sermon bewailing the derelictions of the young people in the congregation. The local lads resented this and decided to retaliate. They proceeded to catch a lot of sparrows which they took to the church grounds the next evening after dark. The doors and windows were open and unscreened. The pranksters waited until the preacher reached the loudest part of his sermon, then they released a box of birds. They flew straight into the lighted church and were followed by more and more, until the church was alive with their flutterings. The service was closed, and the preacher irately met with members of the church board and demanded the apprehension

and punishment of the culprits. After cooling consideration, a wise old board member who understood boys, came up with an acceptable solution. "Brother B-------, let up on the young people; there are plenty of the older folks that need some scarifyin'." That was the end of that.

A Mena woman remembers that she was wheeled in a baby buggy with a parasol, over rocky dirt roads, from Mena to the Bert Pirtle home in Dallas Valley. Her mother and a neighbor woman furnished the power. They spent the day with the Pirtles, then wheeled the two-year-old back to Mena -- a good eight miles. The route was the Road of Seventeen Mudholes -- now the Forest Road, to a point due west of the Pirtle farm. Here they turned across Possum Flat, forded Dallas Creek, and there they were. This historic journey set a record of some sort, I am sure. Today, the little lady under the parasol could give you all the land numbers along their route.

We find from the records that there are some forty members of the Dallas Church, still living in Polk County, who no longer attend church anywhere. To them especially, we say, "Aurevoir".

Dear Sir: 1963

Well Uncle Joe Garland has spurred me into another attempt to write some more about Old Dallas folk and their doings. But first: Joe, you are wrong about me joking when I referred to you as "The Grand Old Man of Polk County". Really, I was in dead earnest, and I am sure that I can get plenty of seconds to that nomination.

Mrs. Sally Moseley gave me a copy of a poem composed by the late J. L. Pipkin, which had to do with the (Old Dallas) school at that time. J. L. Pipkin was the father of Minor Pipkin. The poem was recited by Sally (Alexander) Moseley on Nov. 21, 1895, at a program at the Old Dallas school, as a surprise number for the teachers. This was before Mr. Pipkin married Jennie Compere. A. P. Alexander and Mr. Pipkin were among those present at the program.

Well, that happened almost 68 years ago, and most of the participants in that meeting, at least the principals, have crossed over the ridge. What wonderful people: Jim Pipkin, Minor Pipkin, Jennie Pipkin, A. P. Alexander and others were!

I would like to mention some more people I remember back in those days, but will reserve that for some other time to come, I hope.

Say: How long has it been since you saw an ash hopper, which was usually to be found around the smokehouse, or a boot jack, usually found in the bedroom or out in the yard where it had been tossed at a wailing cat or a howling dog? Maybe some of the cowboys use them yet, boot jacks, that is. I wore boots when I was a lad and I had considerable trouble getting them on, and I claimed it was on account of a high instep. Dad said it was owing to the size of my foot.

Gene McPhetridge

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